

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are pending in this application. Claims 6 and 7 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 9.

Objection to the Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract due to informalities. The Abstract has been replaced with an amended Abstract by way of this reply to correct the informalities. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-5 have been amended in this reply to clarify the claimed invention. Specifically, claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended to correct antecedent basis errors. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to include the first sacrificial substrate step of claim 2, and claim 2 has been amended to remove the same limitation. No new matter has been added by these amendments as support may be found, for example, in the original claims.

New Claims

New claims 9-13 have been added to the present application by way of this reply. No new matter has been added in the new claims as support may be found, for example, in the original claims, Figures 6 and 7, and paragraphs [0060]-[0064].

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-5 due to informalities. With respect to the Examiner's objection to claim 1, the phrase "of said contacts" has been removed to correct the antecedent basis error. Furthermore, claims 2-5 have been amended to correct the cited informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102Fujita

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,510,758 (hereinafter "Fujita"). Claim 1 has been amended in this reply. To the extent this rejection still applies to amended claim 1, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

One or more embodiments of the present invention are directed to a method for manufacturing a probe card. Furthermore, in one or more embodiments, pin contacts are formed on a sacrificial substrate. The sacrificial substrate may be joined with a base substrate, such as the body structure of the probe card, such that the pin contacts are disposed on the base substrate. Then, part or all of the sacrificial substrate may be eliminated, *e.g.*, by etching. Accordingly, claim 1 requires, in part, a first sacrificial substrate elimination step of *eliminating said first sacrificial substrate* after said first contact is coupled to said signal transmission line in said first contact joining step.

Fujita fails to show or suggest at least the above limitations. Specifically, it would be clear to one skilled in the art that Fujita does not show or suggest at least eliminating said first sacrificial substrate. First, Fujita is completely silent in regard to eliminating any part of any substrate. Second, Fujita is completely silent regarding even including a sacrificial substrate, and thus necessarily cannot show eliminating a sacrificial substrate. The Examiner has asserted that the semiconductor chip 4 of Fujita suggests a sacrificial substrate, *i.e.*, a substrate that may be eliminated, at least in part. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that not only is the semiconductor chip 4 *not* comparable to a sacrificial substrate of the claimed invention because Fujita does not show or suggest eliminating the semiconductor chip 4, but also, a semiconductor chip is directly in contrast to a sacrificial substrate because, as shown in Fujita, the semiconductor chip has a transistor, wiring lines, *etc.* (*see* Fujita, col. 6, ll. 40-43). Accordingly, it would be highly undesirable to eliminate the semiconductor chip of Fujita. Thus, Fujita does not show or suggest at least eliminating said first sacrificial substrate, as recited in claim 1.

In view of the above, Fujita does not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Fujita. Dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Yamamoto

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,434,453 (hereinafter "Yamamoto"). Claim 1 has been amended in this reply. To the extent this rejection still applies to amended claim 1, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, one or more embodiments of the present invention are directed to a method for manufacturing a probe card. Claim 1 requires, in part, a first sacrificial substrate elimination step of *eliminating said first sacrificial substrate* after said first contact is coupled to said signal transmission line in said first contact joining step.

Yamamoto fails to show or suggest at least the above limitations. Specifically, it would be clear to one skilled in the art that Yamamoto does not show or suggest at least eliminating said first sacrificial substrate. First, Yamamoto is completely silent regarding eliminating any part of any substrate. Second, Yamamoto is completely silent in regard to even including a sacrificial substrate, and thus necessarily cannot show eliminating a sacrificial substrate. The Examiner has asserted that the integrated circuit chip 2a suggests a sacrificial substrate, *i.e.*, a substrate that may be eliminated, at least in part. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that not only is the integrated circuit chip 2a *not* comparable to a sacrificial substrate of the claimed invention because Yamamoto does not show or suggest eliminating the integrated circuit chip 2a, but also, an integrated circuit chip is directly in contrast to a sacrificial substrate because it would be highly undesirable to eliminate an integrated circuit chip. Thus, Yamamoto does not show or suggest at least eliminating said first sacrificial substrate, as recited in claim 1.

In view of the above, Yamamoto does not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Yamamoto. Dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Patentability of New Claims

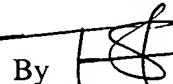
New claims 9-13 have been added to the present application by way of this reply. Applicant submits that the new claims are patentable over Fujita and Yamamoto. Specifically, independent claim 9 requires a sacrificial substrate. As shown above, both Fujita and Yamamoto fail to show or suggest a sacrificial substrate. Furthermore, independent claim 9 requires that a second end of a first contact is freely held at the outside of the first sacrificial substrate in a direction parallel to a first surface of the first sacrificial substrate, and a fourth end of a second contact is freely held at the outside of the second sacrificial substrate in a direction parallel to a first surface of the second sacrificial substrate. Applicant submits that neither Fujita nor Yamamoto shows or suggests at least these limitations of claim 9.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008/144001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas K. Scherer
Registration No.: 45,079
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant



Application No. (if known): 10/771,876

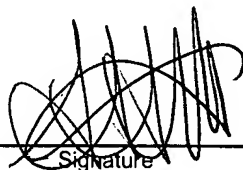
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Amendment (12 pages)
Amendment Transmittal (1 page)